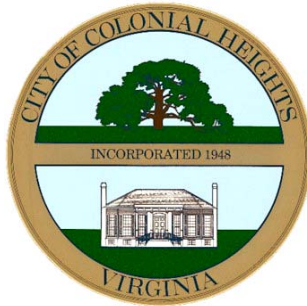


SEPTEMBER 2012 TEAM OF THE MONTH



TEAM: Elizabeth Fields, Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney
Kristin Daniel, Legal Secretary
Jessica Moody, Legal Secretary

NARRATIVE: Elizabeth, Kristin and Jessica joined together to provide assistance for a city resident, a young mother with a toddler who walked to the Commonwealth Attorney's Office seeking relief as a victim of domestic violence.

Elizabeth met with her and immediately took charge of the situation. She contacted the police department and received prompt assistance from several officers. The boyfriend had assaulted the victim twice that day, and was already on bond for assaulting her on other dates. She had to sneak out of her house when he started drinking and she had nowhere safe to stay.

Elizabeth met with her to find out what could be done in court. Jessica and Kristin assisted by obtaining copies of the existing criminal warrants we had not received, ran the defendant's criminal record, called police records to get copies of the police reports, and called officers to come to the office. The mother left her house without anything – no phone, no money, no clothes, no diapers and no food for the baby.

Kristin went out to buy a Sippy cup, diapers, wipes, and other items that were needed right away. In the meantime, Jessica called many people to help. She got in touch with the James House and Kristin assisted with Greyhound tickets to get the mother and child to a relative in Harrisonburg. They even got food for them from McDonald's.

Elizabeth helped her obtain an emergency protective order that needed to be extended by a court in Harrisonburg the next day because she couldn't come right back to Colonial Heights to do it. Jessica made

multiple calls to the Commonwealth Attorney's office in Rockingham County and relayed information back and forth that eventually made its way to the judge there, who agreed to hear the extension request for the protective order. Based upon what Elizabeth, Kristin and Jessica did police obtained new charges and we were able to have the defendant held without bond this time.

This was a tremendous group effort involving the Commonwealth Attorney's office, the police department, and other agencies here and in Rockingham County. The actions taken may have saved the life of this young mother and her child by removing her from the home of a violent domestic abuser who had threatened to kill her.

Thanks for a job well done!